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MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1863.

THE SITUATION.—The condition of the war is now such that we must look for a speedy and very important change for either the better or the worse. The magnitude of the crisis cannot easily be overestimated.

The great point of interest at this time is undoubtedly Vicksburg. Daily the eyes of the whole nation North and the whole people South are turned toward that stronghold and its surroundings. General Grant, with a formidable army, is investing it by land, and Commodore Porter, with his powerful fleet, is investing it by water. General Grant, even with all the aid the gunboats can render him, is not strong enough to carry it with his present fortifications by assault. He has tried thus to carry them and been repulsed with serious loss. Evidently just hope seems to be in reducing them by a vigorous siege; and no doubt he can reduce them if he is not attacked by a great army in his rear. It is evident that the ammunition of the besieged, and the stock of provisons for the soldiery and citizens, and the forage for the horses, are getting low. The beleaguered rebels reply but faintly, and in general not at all, to the constant and terrible Federal fire kept up on them and their works, evidently rendering their equipment of power and fail for any great crisis that may occur in the conflict; a dozen emissaries from without were recently caught in an attempt to pass through our lines with two hundred thousand percussion-caps upon their persons, their purpose of course being to supply the rebel troops with a sorely-needed and indispensable article; the pent-up forces, according to the concurrent testimony of spies and deserters, are restricted to quarter rations, and horses are shot by hundreds or knocked in the head for the want of means to feed them. Let Grant have to do with Vicksburg alone, and the result would be no less certain than glorious; the whole city with all its army and all its artillery would soon fall into his hands.

But, unfortunately, Gen. Grant is not permitted to have to do with Vicksburg alone. While dealing with Vicksburg in front, he is menaced by a great army from behind. He has stated in a dispatch to the Secretary of War that he recently intercepted in the hands of a rebel messenger trying to make his way into Vicksburg a letter from Jeff Davis to Gen. Pemberton, stating him, that if he could hold out fifteen days, a hundred thousand men should be sent to his relief. And the indications are that all the desperate energies of the rebel Congress are put forth in the fulfillment of the pledge. The rebel authorities, deeply aware of the imminent importance and indeed the absolute necessity of Vicksburg to the rebel cause, are resolved that it shall not fall if they have the power to save it. Accordingly they are sending troops in hot haste to Gen. Johnston in Covington. What number of reinforcements have already arrived there, and what number are on their way, our Government has probably no means of knowing. We heard from high military sources last week at Murfreesboro that two divisions, one of them Breckinridge's, had come from Bragg's army, that a very large number of troops had gone from Mobile, from Savannah, from Charleston, and various points in North Carolina, and that at least eighteen or twenty thousand had gone from Lee's army in Virginia. And there can be little doubt, that, to destroy or defeat Grant's army and save Vicksburg, all portions of the Confederacy have been to a considerable extent depleted of their troops. And now the question, and a most momentous question, is whether Gen. Johnston, before Grant shall have time to take Vicksburg by siege, will not turn to the south and have an opportunity to attack him. This is the only rebel hope, and it is the only Federal fear. The rebel is creating the greatest anxiety in all minds on both sides. Grant has, no doubt, been reinforced (though of course not a quarter so strongly as Johnston), and his position is said to be excellent—one for repelling an assault upon Vicksburg. Our Government, with all the momentous facts of the case before it and a full knowledge of all the vast consequences depending upon the issue, shall allow the rebels to triumph from superior numbers, its shame and infamy will be as enduring as human history.

The question will at once occur to all, why it is, that, if the rebels have weakened themselves at so many important points to save Vicksburg, our armies have not availed themselves of the opportunity to advance upon those weakened points. Perhaps they will, but the rebel authorities are cunning traitors, and they have probably considered fully all contingencies. In the first place, there are few sections of their Confederacy that they could not afford to see overrun for the sake of a great and eventual victory at Vicksburg, and, in the second place, they have confidence in the ability of even much diminished forces to defend their principal strongholds for a time. Suppose, for instance, that the rebels had sent the entire army to the latter—the latter, if not strong enough to make a stand, would retreat within the powerful fortifications of Richmond, hoping to defend them until they could have time to fulfill their mission and return. Suppose, however, that, despite the sending away of two divisions, would probably retreat within the natural and artificial defences at Chattanooga in the expectation of holding the Federal army at bay until the two divisions could rejoin him. And Chariton and Savannah and Mobile are so very formidably fortified, that the rebels and the abolitionists and those of the secessionists, or no-southerners, tend to one common result, and both sides have an instinctive conviction of the fact.

Mr. T. has no reason to complain of any lack of cōntry on our part. If we are correctly informed, it isn't very long since he was threatening the suppression of the Louisville Journal for disloyalty. He wanted to get the Journal put down by military power, and, as he couldn't effect that, he thought he would give the rebels a triumph at Vicksburg, without securing to our arms any countervailing advantages at the points from which those reinforcements are withdrawn.

Still we are hopeful, very, very hopeful. We are the more hopeful from the fact that Gen. Grant and his officers are said to be con-

taking a glass of wine; and he was always sound upon the liquor question. We were never his associates upon the question of the armed neutrality of Kentucky. We declared for neutrality when the adoption of that policy was necessary to save the State, and Governor Magoffin and his organs at that time bitterly denounced it. After a time, he and the secessionists had made him and rejected, but this may be true or not. If Grant and Banks is to indicate that Grant has as strong a force as is deemed necessary, for otherwise Banks, instead of stopping to besiege Port Hudson, would, we presume, have hastened on to his aid. Banks, it is said, is pressing Port Hudson so hotly that a rebel offer to surrender the place upon condition of the troops being permitted to march out with the honors of war has been made to him and rejected, but this may be true or not. If Grant and Banks can both win success, as we devoutly trust and earnestly pray they may, the one taking Vicksburg with its army of twenty thousand men and the other Port Hudson with its army of twelve or fifteen thousand, and all the hundreds of heavy artillery and the tens of thousands of small arms in the two places, the rebellion, even if not suddenly and utterly crushed, will never recover from the terrible blow. The rebels will have lost two armies, with no power to replace them or any portion of them by a fourth concession, the three having exhausted the whole fighting material of the Confederacy; the navigation of the Mississippi will be restored to the United States; the rebels will be excluded from their supplies by the cutting of their territory in twain; and thenceforward we shall have a plain and easy work before us.

The people South are linked to their despotism by the cords of life, liberty, and property. The law stands there of life, liberty, and property. It hangs and imprisons men, and women, and beggars children. It arms slaves to keep them in subjection. Of course, nothing can stop it but force. On it, peace is ever to come, all this must be changed, and a change is the first step. If Union is ever to come, this is the first step; yet when we demand that Congress shall force the change, we are like hirings of party squeak out treason. He says, that when he announced himself for the Governorship, he forgot that he had not been, since his return from Illinois, a Kentuckian long enough to be eligible, and we presume he forgets, when he denounces all anti-slavery abolitionists as worshippers of negro slavery, but we don't think it very nice language to be applied by a man old enough to know better to nine-tenths of his fellow-citizens. 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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1863.

Gen. Bragg recently announced that he had detailed or would detail two Federal prisoners, a captain and a lieutenant, to be executed in retaliation for the execution of two Confederate spies by Gen. Burnside. The Confederate officers were regularly tried and convicted by court-martial upon the charge of being rebel spies, and their execution was of course right and proper, in strict accordance with the laws of war among all civilized nations. Hundreds of Federal officers and soldiers have been hung and shot as spies when caught by the rebels, very many if not most of them without even the form of trial, while no rebels have been executed as spies in the United States up to this time with the bare exception of the two officers referred to above, and they after as fair a trial as ever was had. And now if the Jeff Davis Government sees fit to shoot two innocent Federal officers on account of the shooting of the two convicted rebel spies, it will be the inauguration of a dreadful work, to end—God knows where.

A distinguished Major-General of the United States Army informs us that he has conversed with a highly respectable Englishman who says that he learned from a prominent officer of the Confederate administration at Richmond, that the number of recorded executions in the rebel army, upon regular trial and conviction, was, up to last December, more than five months ago, more than three thousand. Of course some of the victims were rebel soldiers, charged with desertion and other offenses, but by far the greater part of them were Federal soldiers and citizens, tried and condemned as spies. No doubt the number up to this time amounts to at least four thousand, and this list, it is remembered, includes none of the thousands and thousands of Union men in and out of the Federal army who have been put to death irregularly and without the slightest form of trial by guerrillas and by rebel bands professing to be something better than guerrillas. The Federal blood that has been shed in this war by the actual hand of murder might make a pool wide and deep enough to drown Jeff Davis and all his Generals as Pharaoh and his host were drowned in the Red Sea. Rebels in authority and rebels out of authority have split Federal blood as remorselessly and recklessly as if blood were no thicker than water, and surely under these circumstances Bragg's threat to make a bloody retaliation for the execution of two rebel spies, the first two executed in all the war, is as monstrous insolence as the Devil himself could possibly conceive.

The rebel Government, in its desperation, appears to be continually upon the watch for pretense to make this war the horror of mankind. It has not yet found a pretense that it could expect the world to regard as plausible, but we presume that it will not relax in its vigilance until it shall have made the discovery. General Rosecrans has taken the right view of Gen. Bragg's threat and the right action upon it. He has sent a notification to Bragg by a flag of truce that, if two federal officers shall be executed for the execution of the two rebel spies, the first two executed in all the war, there is a perfect right to demand the aid of all its own strong right arms to uphold it against the rebels. To fight our enemies with our own weapons is the only way to escape it, is executed mercifully and promptly.

Conspiracies to carry on a rebellion or to effect a revolution are absurd in principle. The idea of a revolution involves the voluntary, the spontaneous, the almost universal rising-up of a people to cast off their old government and adopt a new one. A conspiracy to accomplish such an object, the forcing of a people by the mortal argument of the bayonet, the bullet, and the gallows, to change the right action upon it. He has sent a notification to Bragg by a flag of truce that, if two federal officers shall be executed for the execution of the two rebel spies, the first two executed in all the war, there is a perfect right to demand the aid of all its own strong right arms to uphold it against the rebels. To fight our enemies with our own weapons is the only way to escape it, is executed mercifully and promptly.

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To General Pemberton:

Sir: You are obstinately holding Vicksburg, which you hadn't ought to do. I shall move immediately against you, and you will be hereby notified that if you don't surrender, I will.

Yours, truly, O. K.

Low. Democrat.

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Thomas A. Hendricks, Judge Perkins and other leading Democrats will issue an address to the members of their party to-morrow, advising them to make no resistance to the election of Mr. Lincoln. It is said that it will be fairly done, and that the number to be drafted will be light. The war Democrats have in contemplation the perfecting of an organization in the States, and the meeting, coming of influential war Democrats, will be held here on Friday to take the initiatory steps.

Yesterday the greatest cavalry battle of the war was fought on the Rappahannock. The result has been the defeat of the rebels who, as captured correspondence shows, were about to march from Fredericksburg to Mary and into Pennsylvania, under command of Stuart with some 15,000 cavalry. It was known that Lee had assembled his cavalry, supported by artillery and infantry, at Chancellorsville, and Beverly Ford, designating to send them up to a raid, and Gen. Pleasonton was sent with a portion of the divisions of our cavalry, commanded by Gen. Buford and Gregg respectively, to intercept those steps.

The force under Buford, consisting of portions of the first, second, fifth, and sixth regiments of cavalry and the sixth Pennsylvania cavalry, crossed the river at 4 A. M., and, marching and crossed the river unopposed. Shortly after midnight the force under General Gregg, consisting of portions of the 8th and 12th New York, 5th Illinois, and 3d Indiana cavalry, crossed the ford and commenced crossing at 4 A. M.

The force which was the right first met the enemy's pickets half a mile South of the ford, when a sharp skirmish ensued, the rebels being in heavy force and resisting the advance of our troops with continuous hand-to-hand fighting. When Gregg drove his force up to the fight and became engaged, he sent out his cavalry to dislodge every inch of ground desperately, however. In this way we made more than a dozen charges into the midst of the rebels, who fled with terrible loss.

The enemy, on the other hand, repeatedly charged, relying on their revolvers for the most part. Both sides were repeatedly driven back, but finally the rebels succeeded in driving the rebels, Fitzhugh, Lee's, and Wade Hampton's divisions of cavalry, with artillery, as commanded by Gen. Stuart, to a point where five hundred men of our division were encamped, and the rebels had encamped.

Pleasonton then found the enemy so heavily reinforced with infantry and artillery as to make it prudent to return to this point.

The return was commenced at 4 P. M., Gen. Pleasonton bringing off 200 prisoners, his own wounded, and the bodies of his officers who had been killed in the engagement. The 8th Pennsylvania cavalry, which was in the advance under Buford, lost heavily, including six officers killed, wounded, or missing. The 8th New York had the advance, including two officers killed, and Col. Davis, who was killed on the field, they acquitted themselves with much gallantry.

On the return to this side of the river the rebels skirmished frequently with our rear guard, doing some damage to the latter.

As yet our loss has not been definitely ascertained.

The proportion of horses killed in this all-around and hand to hand cavalry battle was very large.

The field from where Buford and Gregg first became engaged, throughout the whole distance of five miles over which the enemy was driven, was strewn with wounded rebels.

Two batteries of our artillery were engaged and the enemy had the same force. Much credit is given our artillery for bravery and efficiency.

From documents that fell into the hands of General Pleasonton it was ascertained that Stuart was to have started on his intended midday at 4 hours or two of the time our force came up with him.

The following has been received here by mail from the daily press:

Two despatches were received from Grant, addressed to different gentlemen, in his official position. The despatches are dated on Monday, a much shorter time in obtaining advice, than is usually necessary. One is an important fact and one has occasioned much anxiety from them, namely, that Gen. Grant was in communication with Gen. Dix as far back as 4th inst., at which time Gen. Dix was still in command of the Army of the Potomac.

Gen. Grant says that Johnston is concentrating troops to operate against him, and mentions a report that three divisions are sent to him. Gen. Dix is to reinforce Johnston, as far as possible, to assist him.

Gen. Dix is to remain in the field, and the command of the Army of the Potomac is to be given to Gen. Hooker.

Gen. Dix is still closely invested. The siege is progressing rapidly.

The news of the retreat is represented to us as to show that Grant fears neither the enemy in front nor rear. It is presumed that he did not know at the date of his despatch whether or not he was to be reinforced.

The information has increased hope and confidence in the final success of the siege.

Affairs along the lines of the Potomac remain as at last advised, the enemy as well as our own troops maintaining their original lines of battle below town.

Intelligence from North Carolina to Virginia shows that the enemy has no strong force there.

Newbern, N. C., June 9.—United States transport steamer Alabama leaves here this morning at ten o'clock for New York.

The news from the South leaves no doubt that long smouldering fires of revolution are breaking out in the interior of North Carolina, and the discretion has reached a point where the situation is beyond the intuitions of the journals of the State. Several thousand armed refugees from the secession have been for weeks entrenched in the mountains with artillery, successfully detaching the Confederate from the rest of the country.

The Raleigh Standard complains that the rebel secession act has not been enforced in Georgia and Mississippi, while North Carolina has been compelled to do it.

It appears that in the battle of Chancellorsville twenty-nine North Carolina regiments were placed in front to resist Hooker's advance, and that the 2d and 3d Virginia troops were held in reserve.

This massacre of North Carolinians is boldly and treacherously, and Confederacy is charged with gross injustice and harshness.

Numerous and studied indignities put upon the State and her people are keenly resented.

It is proposed to make Gen. Wild, of the Arctic brigade, Military Governor of North Carolina.

The Chattanooga Rebel of the 4th, in an article on the rebellion, declares that Breckinridge has been compelled to come to him, and that Johnston was so secure in his position that he needed no troops.

It is suspected that he did not know at the date of his despatch whether or not he was to be reinforced.

The information has increased hope and confidence in the final success of the siege.

(Special Despatch to the Louisville Journal.)

MIDWAY, Ky., June 12.

Charles D. Kirk—"Se-De-Kay"—the well known correspondent of the Louisville Courier, has just arrived here last night. He was taken to Lexington this morning, where he will be tried as a spy.

(Special to the World.)

COLUMBUS, June 11.

The Democracy of Ohio assembled at Columbus to the project of raising \$40,000. It is the largest and most enthusiastic convention ever assembled in Ohio. Ex-Governor Medill was president of the convention and G. L. Vallandigham, speaker.

Ex-Senator Fugel made a speech, denouncing the arrest of Vallandigham, his mock trial, and his release. He exhorted the audience to elect Major Buchanan, Longstreet's division of the army.

In this retirement Col. Wyndham's brigade was wounded severely. Col. Wyndham's brigade was wounded.

The loss in Wyndham's brigade is about 200, in killed, wounded, and missing. His force was entirely engaged, and he was left skirmishing.

The rebel force of cavalry alone was about 15,000. Buford's cavalry brigade, composed of regulars, and the 6th Pennsylvania, and the 1st and 2d Cavalry, and the 1st and 2d Dragoons, and the 1st and 2d Cavalry.

The following is an extract from a captured letter, showing the name of the rebel force and what they intended doing: "We had two grand reviews of five brigades of cavalry. The first took place on Saturday, where we were inspected by Stuart. I have just returned from the second, where we were inspecting by General Lee. We are now in position, marching about sixteen pieces, under command of Major Buchanan. Longstreet's division of the army.

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Special to the Post.

Admiral Foote arrived to-day. He is making preparations to assume command of the South Atlantic Squadron, and a naval attack on Charleston may soon be expected.

New York, June 9.

The Tribune, Washington, letter, June 9.

The steamer Continental, from New Orleans, the 2d, arrived to-night. From file of the *Evening Star*, Washington, June 5, 1863.

The *Editor of the London Journal*:

"I want to say a little about Fernando Wood's peace meeting, which convened an immense crowd in this city the other night. It was a scene of popular excitement. The men here were made to father the letter, and many great names took right command. It kicked up a bad odor for some, especially those who were most anxious to state that the abolition office here is really a real concern. This is about the manner of things now: Mr. Smith does not want his reform friends to know that he is in league with the Union as one of its Editors, and the publishers of the Union endeavor to conceal the soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland and the fact of their being here. The men here are mixed up with whom were many old foes; and good men, who, forgetting that war is an ordinance of God, are now in the ranks of the rebels, sat here last night, and were admiringly dressed, and fanning themselves with handkerchiefs, and were political harpies which fasten themselves to the ship of state in all waters. But, if we may pursue our nautical metaphor, it is so far from the deck of the vessel, that it is impossible to see them. Furthermore, there is a large party at the North who have persistently refused to regard the African as the best representative of the race, and have been induced to do so much to change their opinions, and by the same means Southern manners and customs will become gradually introduced north of the Ohio and Potomac, rendering people more and more like us than in former times. Thus we will again become a united and loving people. The lion and the lamb, the contractor and the manufacturer, will lie down together, and the miller, the weaver, and the tailor will concur with Gen. Burnside's observations, as contained in his statement made to the court in Cincinnati, and which he held to the following effect:

"There is a present, and in a great emergency like the present, should avoid the use of party epithets and bitter invectives, and discourage the organization of parties. We must, however, allow no disingenuous and disgraceful to a free people, but now they are absolutely wrong and injurious; they create dissensions and discord, which just now amount to treason."

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